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JOHN HOWARD LAWSON

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DATE: June 15, 1953

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FROM : SAC, LOS ANGELES (100-21198)

SUBJECT: JOHN HOWARD LAWSON, Was.
INTERNAL SECURITY - C
O.O. Los AngelesALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
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On May 20, 1953, the Hollywood ASP Council, of which organization subject is a Vice Chairman, held a membership meeting at the ASP offices, 7410 Sunset Boulevard, Los Angeles. The purpose of the meeting was to hear a report from LAWSON and Dr. P. PRICE COBBS, ASP Chairman, who have been delegates to the ASP National Convention in New York. This meeting was attended by LA 3512-S who furnished a report to SA BERNARR M. PTACEK on May 24, 1953. (X)(u)

Included as part of LAWSON's talk to this meeting were comments regarding the immediate action program for ASP. LAWSON stressed that the "cultural liberation of the Negro is of the greatest importance". He further stated that ASP must fight against the "vicious un-American witch hunt by corrupt politicians such as VELDE, JENNER, and MC CARTHY." He stated ASP must also promote the international campaign to defend CHARLIE CHAPLIN and to protest his "exclusion" from the country. This is to be accomplished, LAWSON said, by obtaining written statements from important people and having these statements printed in a brochure for wide spread distribution. LAWSON also added that ASP has a special task to perform in promoting the film production "Salt of the Earth." (X)(u)

On May 14, 1953, LEOPOLD L. ATLAS, film writer and former member of the Communist Party in Hollywood, advised SA MARCUS M. BRIGHT and SA JAMES S. WEIR during an interview with him that he had joined the Communist Political Association in 1944 and subsequently disassociated himself from the CPA of his own will in 1947. Among the individuals whom ATLAS described as having been in the CPA during that period was JOHN HOWARD LAWSON. ATLAS stated that it was LAWSON who actually had recruited him into the CPA in 1944. He characterized LAWSON as the top figure of the Party in Hollywood. He stated LAWSON was a member of the writer's branch to which he, ATLAS, was assigned in 1944 and was also a member of the last branch to which ATLAS was assigned in 1947 when ATLAS quit the Party. lo

MMB:BJF
Reg.

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